

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION  
3 CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY POSSIBLE CORRELATIONS BETWEEN  
4 ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS AND TO  
5 RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS ANY CORRELATION.

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7 WHEREAS, the federal food and drug administration issued  
8 a public warning in October 2004 about an increased risk of  
9 suicidal thoughts or behaviors in children and adolescents  
10 treated with a class of antidepressant medications called  
11 selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2006, an advisory committee to the federal  
13 food and drug administration recommended that the federal  
14 food and drug administration issue a public warning about an  
15 increased risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviors in young  
16 adults up to the age of twenty-five who are taking selective  
17 serotonin reuptake inhibitors; and

18 WHEREAS, in September 2007, a study, published in the  
19 *American Journal of Psychiatry*, found that there is not a  
20 positive correlation between antidepressants and suicidal  
21 thoughts or behaviors in young people; and

22 WHEREAS, studies and professional organizations disagree  
23 as to whether the prescription of antidepressant medications  
24 should be further regulated or further protocols developed to  
25 guard against suicidal thoughts or behaviors among young

1 people; and

2 WHEREAS, according to the treatment for adolescents with  
3 depression study, funded by the national institute of mental  
4 health, a combination of medication and psychotherapy is the  
5 most effective treatment for adolescents with depression; and

6 WHEREAS, the federal food and drug administration has  
7 issued guidelines stating that individuals who take  
8 antidepressants must be carefully monitored for worsening  
9 depression, suicidal thoughts or suicidal behaviors; and

10 WHEREAS, on the basis that some physicians are  
11 inadequately monitoring or are unaware of the risks that  
12 antidepressants may pose for young people, the state of  
13 California has considered legislation that would require all  
14 family practice physicians who treat depression by  
15 prescribing antidepressants to undergo mandatory continuing  
16 medical education on the subject of antidepressant  
17 medications;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico health policy  
20 commission be requested to convene a task force comprising  
21 experts from the human services department and the department  
22 of health; medical and behavioral health providers; and other  
23 health care and health policy experts to investigate whether  
24 there is a correlation between antidepressant drugs and  
25 suicidal thoughts and behaviors and to recommend policy

1 solutions to address the correlation, if it exists; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested  
3 to examine whether providers who prescribe antidepressants  
4 should be required to undergo mandatory continuing medical  
5 education on the subject of antidepressant medications in  
6 order to provide expertise in monitoring the risks that may  
7 be associated with antidepressants in young people; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the New Mexico health policy commission. \_\_\_\_\_

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